



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Energy Policy Division

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November 12, 2004

Klickitat County
Curt Dreyer, Planning Director
Annex I
228 W Main, MS-CH-17
Goldendale, WA 98620

RE: Final Energy Overlay Zone EIS

Dear Mr. Dreyer,

The Energy Division of the Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development would like to offer some perspectives on the proposed Energy Overlay Zone.

We are very pleased that the county has undertaken this effort to understand and guide potential energy development in Klickitat County. Your systematic analysis will be an important guide for developers to areas identified as preferred by the county. The EIS will provide the County with solid baseline information to chart the County's future while protecting the County's many attributes, attracting investment and retaining the county's prerogatives for specific projects. We recognize that this has not been without risk, or expense, but we believe it will help create better and timelier energy facility decisions.

Washington State's population increases about 100,000 people per year. Regional energy demand continues to grow at over 1% annually. The nature of energy needs and the technology to address those needs continues to change. The just released draft 5th Power Plan from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council demonstrates that investment is required to satisfy our needs and improve the northwest energy system. Our energy future requires us to be mindful stewards of our hydroelectric resources, acquire cost-effective efficiency wherever we can find it and intelligently add new generation. Our region needs to continue diversifying our energy supplies using a range of approaches and take advantage of local opportunities. Your EIS should help Klickitat County benefit from opportunities available from such development.

Many communities are often forced into a reactive mode for energy development proposals and lack adequate baseline information on which to make solid, well informed and comprehensive decisions. Developers of a specific site need to keep information proprietary until their project is ready to move through the permitting process. The process used to create a project is usually done internally. Your proposed overlay zone on the other hand informs both the public and project developers of issues, resources and local priorities. This broader discussion and analysis should create better and more informed decisions.

Our division works with power planners, developers and individuals to make intelligent energy investments from a state and regional energy perspective. The overlay zone creates solid context. Although the overlay zone will provide a framework for development - it cannot substitute for site specific analysis and siting. This EIS should allow the county to better focus on the specific characteristics of an individual project and site and should decrease both the time and cost associated with energy facility siting.

The EIS contemplates an energy overlay zone covering the range of energy resources. While this perspective has significant value we recommend that the thermal and renewable aspects of the overlay zone be separated as thermal plants have very different characteristics from renewable projects.

Please contact us if you have questions about the changing energy world. We look forward to working with Klickitat County to help diversify the economy, take advantage of local resources and to enhance the quality of life throughout our state. We applaud your forward looking and far reaching approach to energy development.

Sincerely,

Tony Usibelli, Assistant Director
WA Dept. of Community, Trade, and Economic Development
Energy Policy Division